



2002 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence
Brownfield sites take top honors in Land Use category

The 2002 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence included a new category to recognize innovations in land use including brownfields redevelopment. The new Land Use category recognizes projects that incorporate innovative and effective methods or practices to preserve or improve land use. Qualifying projects needed to revitalize underutilized or contaminated land, preserve green space and/or reduce sprawl.

The Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence are offered to recognize outstanding environmental projects throughout Indiana. Nominations were accepted through April and reviewed by a committee. The selection process was competitive.

Governor Frank O'Bannon presented the Land Use awards at the Governor's Conference on the Environment on September 27, 2002. Two brownfields projects took top honors.

The Brownfields Development Group, LLC was presented an award for revitalizing a former Civil Defense building on the near northwest side of Indianapolis. The building is now home to the Brownfield Development Group, mainstream businesses, minority start-up businesses and training schools that offer job training and placement assistance.

The Hammond Redevelopment Commission was presented an award for revitalizing a former industrial slag dump in Hammond. The site incorporates a youth life skills training center and an 18-hole golf course.

Both projects received financial and technical assistance through the Indiana Brownfields Program. By publicizing these projects the Governor hopes that others throughout the state will emulate them and improve the quality of the environment by doing so.